

Date: Wed, 24 Nov 93 04:30:11 PST  
From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Ham-Policy-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V93 #482  
To: Ham-Policy

Ham-Policy Digest                      Wed, 24 Nov 93                      Volume 93 : Issue 482

Today's Topics:

                    Another possible use  
                    No Code etc... (5 msgs)  
                    No Code etc... (really: testing)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Policy Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.  
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Date: 22 Nov 1993 21:57:09 GMT  
From: newsstand.cit.cornell.edu!newsstand.cit.cornell.edu!usenet@cu-  
arpa.cs.cornell.edu  
Subject: Another possible use  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Nov22.181637.24560@ke4zv.atl.ga.us> Gary Coffman,  
gary@ke4zv.atl.ga.us writes:

>  
>Yeah, Steve Whatshisname of Winnebiko fame has one on the bike's  
>handlebars. It's really slick. They're actually shaped more like a  
>potato than a keypad. I found I could chord in about 30 WPM after  
>a few minutes practice. There are 4 keys for the fingers and a  
>nibble shift key for the thumb. Two squeezes encodes any ASCII  
>character. Baudot could be done with a single squeeze unless you  
>needed a shift character. Not the 120 WPM I do on the keyboard,  
>but lots faster than I can do with a pencil.

>  
>Gary  
>--

I've read about the potato shaped one, and that seemed like a neat idea. I think the one I read about had both 5 buttons on it for chording in characters, and also some sensors for positions so it was an 'air mouse' - some sort of three dimensional mouse input. Never seen one in the flesh (plastic?) though. I'd like to. I'll bet that a well designed one could be the next step up from the traditional keyboard.

I saw Steve Roberts (N4RVE?) once when he came through town (we got to visit in a campground for the afternoon and get a 'pull the covers' tour of the bike), and then saw him last year again at Interop. The arrangement on the handlebars, at least at one point, was actually 8 switches, 4 under the fingers of each hand. He learned to input ASCII directly in a one bit per switch arrangement. He writes about the development of it in his book, "Computing Across America" - I think he said he figured if he could use 8 fingers on a flute, he could do it while riding for ASCII. However I wouldn't be surprised if he has switched to the potato chording method since I last paid attention.

Anybody know anything about a commercial product for a chording keyboard like the potato one? I can just see it pasted on top of the stick shift... :-)

Kevin

-----  
Date: Mon, 22 Nov 93 22:07:39 EST  
From: noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!usenet@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: No Code etc...  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Fill-in-the-blank, maybe. But not essay questions. The big reason for multiple-choice questions is to prevent misinterpretation of the answers; a multiple-choice question, if written well, will have only one valid answer. By contrast an essay question might well be scored as "wrong" (through a misunderstanding or actual fraud) even if the examinee actually knows the subject. A fill-in-the-blank could be a good alternative if you're trying to avoid the memorization problem, but what happens if the correct answer is "vacuum tube" but an examinee says "valve?"

-----  
Date: Mon, 22 Nov 93 22:10:39 EST  
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.kei.com!  
bloom-beacon.mit.edu!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!usenet@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: No Code etc...  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Why should I? I'm sick and tired of having to reread entire posts that are reposted by others. In any case, to quote even a portion of a post I'd either have to (1) save it on disk, log off, leave my comm program, load my text editor, compose a reply, exit the editor, reload the comm program, log back in and upload the reply, or (2) type in the quoted text by hand.

If you don't have access to what you yourself wrote, blame yourself or your newsreader.

-----  
Date: 18 Nov 93 23:25:54 GMT  
From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!news.umbc.edu!eff!news.kei.com!yeshua.marcam.com!zip.eecs.umich.edu!destroyer!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!atha!aupair.cs.@dog.ee.lbl.gov  
Subject: No Code etc...  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

lkollar@nyx10.cs.du.edu (Larry Kollar) writes:

>I can run my entire packet station on batteries. The older Tandy  
>laptops are good for several hours between recharge/new AA batteries;  
>that's why they're so popular at hamfests. A couple people I know  
>personally have mobile packet and/or AMTOR stations.

I can run a kilowatt & computer and you-name-it on batteries.  
The trick is to have big ones ;)

regards,  
Ross ve6pdq  
who runs his entire house on batteries, 365 days a year.

--  
Ross Alexander, rwa@cs.athabascau.ca, (403) 675 6311, ve6pdq@nebulus.ampr.ab.ca

-----  
Date: Fri, 19 Nov 93 00:07:38 EST  
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!news.Brown.EDU!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!usenet@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: No Code etc...  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

No, there are OTHER reasons why many of us want to eliminate the Morse TEST. Such as the fact that some people have a VERY HARD time trying to learn it; the fact that knowledge of Morse Code is NOT relevant to the effective use of other modes; and the principle that government shouldn't impose irrational

restrictions on the people. (For example, how would you like it if you had to learn to ride a motorcycle in order to get a driver's license of any kind?)

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Date: Fri, 19 Nov 93 00:10:28 EST  
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!news.Brown.EDU!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!  
usenet@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: No Code etc...  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

No, as I have said OVER AND OVER that is NOT acceptable -- knowledge of Morse Code is NOT RELEVANT to the use of phone. The fact that you're advocating requiring Morse in order to use phone shows clearly that you simply want to use Morse Code as a barrier to entry, NOT as a test of relevant skills. I submit that this is entirely the wrong attitude to take in a free society.

-----  
Date: Tue, 23 Nov 93 01:27:34 EST  
From: library.ucla.edu!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!caen!malgudi.oar.net!wariat.org!mystis!dan@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: No Code etc... (really: testing)  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

paulf@Csl.Stanford.EDU (Paul Flaherty) writes:

> dan@mystis.wariat.org (Dan Pickersgill N8PKV) writes:  
>  
> >Jeff, ANY essay question is open to interpretation. I don't know if you  
> >have ever been involved in teaching non-technical people, but eassy  
> >questions can be VERY hard to grade. And VERY much open to  
> >interpretation, by their very nature.  
>  
> This is the primary motivation behind the multiple choice test format.  
> Anything that would replace it would have to have the same or nearly  
> the same degree of subjectivity. So we're pretty much stuck with the  
> multiple choice format.  
>  
> A number of improvements could be made to the existing tests, however; these  
> include:  
>  
> 1. Directed question sets. Sets of questions are clustered as groups in the  
> pool. The clusters are related to one problem. For example, here's a  
> circuit. What kind of circuit is it? What's the current in this componen  
> What should I add to make the circuit do this-and-such?  
>  
> 2. More distractors. At least four.

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>
> 3. Better distractors. All should be at least related to the true answer.
> Equalize lengths.
>
> 4. Larger question pool. About 4x the current one.
>
> --
> -=Paul Flaherty, N9FZX | "Fighter pilots make movies. Bomber pilots make
> ->paulf@Stanford.EDU | history." -- Jake Grafton

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I won't comment on #1, 2 might be a good idea, however I think 3 distractors can (note CAN) be enough. Good distractors are hard to come by. Now #3 is the best idea I have heard. But lets get better questions. I mean asking if xyz freq. is in what band? There is no better way to get that right other than to memorize. If I am not familiar with the band I will use a card or list of freq.'s I have access to.

As to the last I TOTALLY agree with Paul. (We can argue over the 4x.)

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=====
|| Dan Pickersgill N8PKV || 'Pots have handles, Magazines have ||
|| dan@mystis.wariat.org || Personals, Hams have Names' ||
=====
|| 'Your enemy is never a villian in his own eyes. Keep this in ||
|| mind; it may offer a way to make him your friend. If not you ||
|| can kill him without hate - and quickly.' -Lazarus Long ||
=====

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Date: Mon, 22 Nov 93 22:18:35 EST  
From: news.centerline.com!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!usenet@uunet.uu.net  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <931121.82538.EDELLERS@delphi.com>, <NRLeDc4w165w@amanda.jpunix.com>,  
<CGwAz0.5AM@news.Hawaii.Edu>s.delp  
Subject : Re: No Code etc...

We're not talking about "at this time." I'm talking about something that I feel needs to be CHANGED. As for a code waiver, I am not a handicapped person (in either the general or legal meaning of the term) so there's no point in asking for one.

I have in fact tried, on several occasions, to learn the code and each time I have come away with a sense of abject failure -- it just doesn't sink in. The problem is not with speed, but with memorizing the character set (meaning establishing the direct relationship between "didah" and A). The only

characters

I have managed to memorize are A, E, O, N, S, T and V; I can copy those at between 15 and 20 wpm if the QRM isn't too thick, and can send those at well over 13 with a straight key, but I am well short of being able to memorize the rest of the character set.

-----  
Date: Fri, 19 Nov 93 00:13:45 EST

From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!news.Brown.EDU!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!

usenet@network.ucsd.edu

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <7i36cc4w165w@amanda.jpunix.com>,

<1993Nov18.013440.13834@newsgate.sps.mot.com>, <DRT.93Nov18100838@alfredo.mit.edu>

Subject : Re: Reprinted by popular demand

Probably because, a lot of the time, there isn't anyone on duty. (I know, there SHOULD be according to the rule, but...)

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Date: Fri, 19 Nov 93 00:12:33 EST

From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!news.Brown.EDU!noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!

usenet@network.ucsd.edu

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <931117.70469.EDELLERS@delphi.com>,

<1993Nov18.163048.385@cs.brown.edu>, <rcrw90-181193140733@node\_13059.aieg.mot.com>

Subject : Re: No Code etc...

And don't forget the other big reason to make question pools public -- to allow one and all to see how difficult the questions really are and to object to them if they believe it justified.

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Date: Fri, 19 Nov 93 00:02:12 EST

From: noc.near.net!news.delphi.com!usenet@uunet.uu.net

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <2cc7ef\$4nu@eff.org>, <pschleck.753560187@cwis>,

<2cekks\$g3i@wvhpadm1.mentorg.com>ropa.e

Subject : Re: Back to our regularly scheduled whining.

Why would preemption of CC&Rs "destroy the real estate market?" The real estate market certainly wasn't destroyed when CC&Rs forbidding sales to blacks (etc.) were overturned, and it certainly wasn't destroyed in Kentucky when we

amended our constitution to void the so-called "broad-form deeds" so that landowners could forbid holders of mineral rights from strip-mining their land.

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Date: Mon, 22 Nov 1993 11:16:14 GMT  
From: munnari.oz.au!spool.mu.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!  
darwin.sura.net!gatekeeper.es.dupont.com!esds01.es.dupont.com!  
COLLINST%esvx19.es.dupont.com@network.ucsd.edu  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <CGquAI.GKu@cbnewsm.cb.att.com>,  
<1993Nov19.201936.16284@newsgate.sps.mot.com>,  
<1993Nov20.000831.7403@es.dupont.com>,<1993Nov21.163526.18550@ke4zv.atl.ga.us>  
Reply-To : collinst@esvx19.es.dupont.com  
Subject : Re: Why isn't Amateur Radio like CB?

In article <1993Nov21.163526.18550@ke4zv.atl.ga.us>, gary@ke4zv.atl.ga.us (Gary Coffman) writes:

>In article <1993Nov20.000831.7403@es.dupont.com> collinst@esvx19.es.dupont.com writes:

>>

>> I disagree, my license is my graduation certificate.

>

>Isn't that sad? In a service that's supposed to be a lifelong learning  
>experience, the only graduation certificate you should get is the one  
>issued by the coroner. But alas, we have people with the above attitude  
>in our ranks.

>

>Gary

>

>--

>Gary Coffman KE4ZV                    | Where my job's going, | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary

I gotta say I'm kinda confused about your response above Gary.  
Did I say in ANY previous message about I have learned all I  
need at the end of any written test? No! Hamming to me has  
been a learning experience since my Novice days. I have experienced  
most that Amateur Radio has to offer CW to SATS. And have  
learned alot, technically.

My comment was aimed at the written test that I had to take  
for Extra and how easy it was....

So keep your sympathy to yourself.....and you need to quit  
trying to read between the lines of peoples messages (...that

is unless your just trying to stir people up as I suspect).

73, Tom WI3P collinst@esvax.dnet.dupont.com or collinst@world.std.com

"Shutup and sit down you moron!"...Ben Stern

\*\*\* MY EMPLOYER DOESN'T SPEAK FOR ME NOR I FOR THEM \*\*\*

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End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #482

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